

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 04932 292331Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 055225

P 292259Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8706

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4932

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, NU

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA CONCERNING CUBAN MILITARY
INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

REF STATE 295496

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR THEBERGE

1. ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 24, I MET WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA FOR ONE HOUR AT EL RETIRO TO DISCUSS SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND TO EXPRESS ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND MYSELF, OUR BEST WISHES TO HIM AND HIS FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THE PRESIDENT HAD RETURNED THE PREVIOUS DAY FROM A TEN DAY PERSONAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND HE LOOKED WELL AND RESTED.

2. AFTER I REVIEWED THE CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, OUTLINING THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL STATE 295496, PRESIDENT SOMOZA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR BEING KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS THERE. HE DECLARED THAT HE WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT CUBA'S MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. WHEN SMALL, POOR STATES LIKE CUBA CAN BE USED WITH IMPUNITY BY THE USSR TO INTERVENE IN AFRICA WITH COMBAT FORCES, IT OPENED UP DANGEROUS POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE ADVENTURES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. IF THE MOSCOW-SUPPORTED MPLA GAINS POWER IN ANGOLA, COMMUNIST INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA FROM AFRICA ALSO BECOMES POSSIBLE. CUBAN INTERVENTION HAS SET AN UNFAVORABLE PRECEDENT WHICH MAY RETURN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANAGU 04932 292331Z

TO PLAGUE THE UNITED STATES AND ITS FRIENDS IN LATIN AMERICA. HE

EXPECTED RUSSIA TO USE A COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED ANGOLA AS A NAVAL BASE TO MONITOR THE ATLANTIC OIL ROUTE FROM THE PERSIAN GULF AREA, AND AS A GUERRILLA BASE FOR OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA.

3. PRESIDENT SOMOZA DECLARED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT CRITICIZING CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, AND BRINGING TO AN END THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS NORMALIZING CUBAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, CONSTITUTED A CLEAR SETBACK FOR CASTRO'S POLICY. HE SAID THE US SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT CUBAN AND SOVIET INTENTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA. RUSSIA ALREADY WAS USING ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN COSTA RICA TO FINANCE SUBVERSION IN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES. HE STATED THAT COSTA RICAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES REPORT THAT THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY IS CHANNELING MONEY TO THE NICARAGUAN PSN AND FSLN.

4. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WISHED TO RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN HEADS OF STATE MEETING TO BE HELD IN NICARAGUA IN JANUARY. HE SAID, "THERE IS A LOT OF FUZZY THINKING ABOUT CUBA AND THE USSR IN THE REGION WHICH I BELIEVE SHOULD BE CLEARED UP." I ASSURED HIM THAT IT WAS OUR INTENTION TO KEEP HIM REGULARLY INFORMED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA.

5. HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE OFFICIAL LATIN AMERICAN REACTION TO CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA BECAUSE THE RIO TREATY PROVIDES A SENSE OF SECURITY TO SMALL STATES IN THE REGION, AND AFRICA SEEMED FAR AWAY.

6. OUR CONVERSATION ENDED ON A CORDIAL NOTE WHEN PRESIDENT SOMOZA ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD, AND SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER, HIS WARMEST BEST WISHES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR.

7. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS WATCHING CAREFULLY EVENTS IN ANGOLA. AS A CLOSE ALLY OF OURS HE WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED ABOUT THE OPENNESS WITH WHICH CUBA WAS INTERVENING IN AFRICA, AND WHAT HE FELT WAS THE WEAK RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEST.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MANAGU 04932 292331Z

8. PRESIDENT SOMOZA WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY OF A SUMMARY CHARACTER, ON CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA PRIOR TO THE CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING HERE IN JANUARY.

10. AVAILABLE SUMMARY INFORMATION SHOULD REACH US WITHIN TEN DAYS FOR TIMELY TRANSMITTAL, IF YOU CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE. MEANWHILE, AS SITREPS ON CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA ARE RECEIVED, THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE GON.

THEBERGE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAGU04932
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0400
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975128/aaaaagtg.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 295496
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA CONCERNING CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, NU, US, (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006